



McHenry Western Lake County EMS System System Memo #9

To: MWLC EMS PROVIDERS

From: MWLC EMS SYSTEM

Date: 8/14/2023

RE: Scope of Practice

MWLC EMSS has identified a normalization of deviation pertaining to scope of practice of EMT & PM personnel throughout MWLC EMSS. Normalization of deviance is a phenomenon in which individuals in an agency accept, unacceptable behavior until it becomes normal for the agency.

Identified are PM students, who are not students of MWLC EMSS/McHenry County College (MCC), that have been allowed to perform skills outside their scope of practice as normal practice. Included in this, the PM is documenting the skills done under their licensure and name, although the skill was performed by an EMT.

As a MWLC EMSS PM student, the student is paired with a MWLC EMSS approved preceptor, and works under the Medical Director Dr. Pacini's license. MWLC EMSS acts as oversight for the PM student as per the agreement with MCC. Ultimately Dr. Pacini, MWLC EMSS Medical Director, is responsible for the care and skills performed by a PM student in the MWLC EMSS/MCC paramedic program.

PM students whom are **not** in MWLC EMSS/MCC paramedic program, do **not** have privileges to perform skills outside their scope of practice. These individuals are only able to perform at the scope of their current license as an EMT. Students outside of MWLC EMSS/MCC PM program should complete their skills under the supervision of the agency that the PM program has approved for them. These students are under the supervision of the medical director of the PM program that they are attending.

This deviation of this standard must stop immediately. It is unethical, unprofessional, and is not in accordance with the MWLC EMS values. This type of behavior puts the MWLC EMSS system, Dr. Pacini, and MCC paramedic program at risk. Most importantly it puts the community at risk, and not meeting the standards that the community should expect. Please adhere to the standards that are expected as a member of the MWLC EMSS.

In the future the MWLC EMSS office should be notified of any students who are attending EMS programs outside of MWLC EMSS/ MCC. MWLC EMSS will have students, from other programs, sign an attestation of understanding of what the expectations are of students while working at a MWLC EMSS agency.

Thank you,

Dr Pacini MWLC EMSS Medical Director

Elizabeth DePouw MWLC EMSS Coordinator